



DECEMBER 7, 2021

FIRESIDE CHAT

The New Reality of the Urban Church:
Will the Church Ever Be the Same?

DECEMBER 2020 DISCUSSION

What has changed?

TAKEAWAYS

1. The Church is now forced to embrace technology.
2. Communication methods with church members changed.
3. The Church's meeting place changed from in-person to virtual gatherings.
4. Life (in-person community) was interrupted.
5. The Church economy was deeply impacted.
6. The emotional health of church members changed.



MARCH 2021 DISCUSSION

What have we learned?

- The importance of **adaptability** and **humility**.
- The **uncertainty of the future** and the **reality of our mortality**.
- **The Church is not the building.**
- The **importance/significance of the leadership role** of the Church in times like this.



JULY 2021 DISCUSSION

How do we lead effectively through change to keep ministry relevant?

- It is necessary to **leverage digital resources** (according to Barna, 63% think so).
- Be more intentional in implementing a **ministry plan** that is flexible, adaptable, and invests in people.
- Pay attention to **impact measurements**.
- Promote a **shared leadership** (ministry team) model to maximize the mission impact.



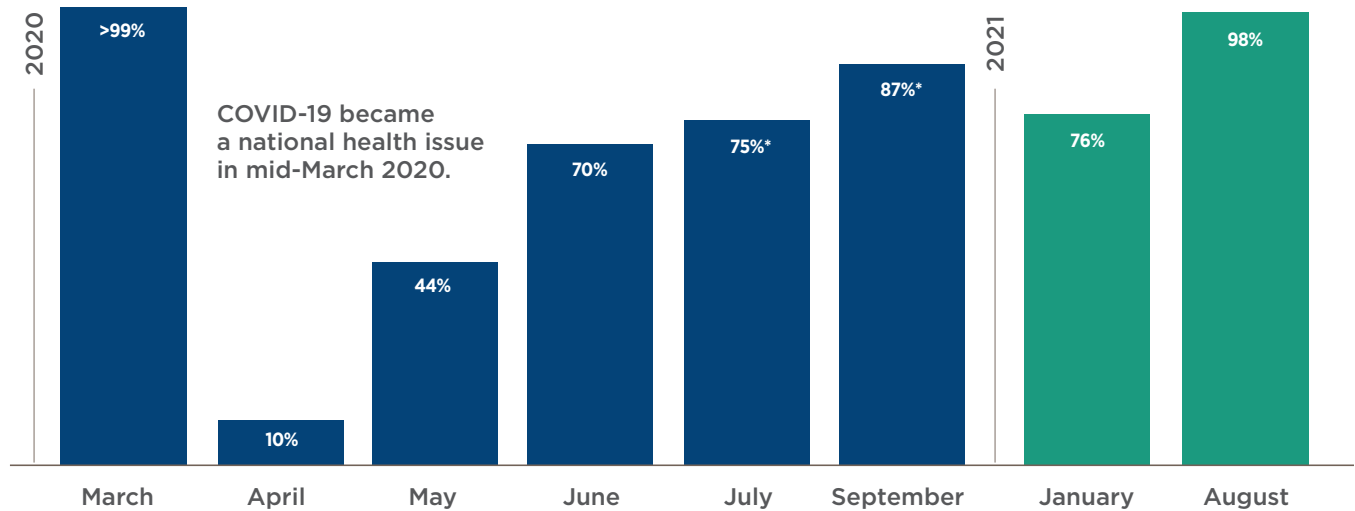
Discussion Question

Will the Church ever be the same?

Churches open at pre-pandemic levels

Percentage of churches offering in-person services at highest since March 2020.

Percent of U.S. Protestant pastors who say their church met in person at all that month.



*Question asked prior to the end of the month.

Source: Lifeway Research surveys of U.S. Protestant pastors conducted March 30-31, 2020; April 27-29, 2020; July 20-22, 2020; Sept. 2-Oct. 1, 2020; Feb. 1-11, 2021; Sept. 1-29, 2021.



IN-PERSON SERVICES

Return of the Churchgoer?

Few churches are at pre-pandemic attendance levels.

Percent of U.S. Protestant pastors who say their church met in person at all that month.

Source: Lifeway Research phone survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors conducted Sept. 1-29, 2021.

